

developed communication mediums 130. The Subscriber 110 then sets an Subscriber Profile with Host 120 in the form of an informational data set, which may contain both facts and instructions, pertaining to disposition of mail/parcel to a final delivery point designated by the Subscriber. Likewise, Facilities 140 register with the Host 5 120 and the Host makes these Facilities available system-wide to Subscribers 110, so they can choose from the Host 120 which Facility or Facilities 140 may be insertion points for mail and parcels into the UVDC addressing system 100.

[0027] The communication mediums 130 for registration and informational data set input and updating can take many forms. It is preferable for these operations 10 to occur through a networked communications system, such as the Internet, with the operational information being entered via keyboard, stylus or other known or subsequently developed input device by accessing the Host website 120 and its associated database 150. However, the invention is not limited to this and can take more conventional forms, such as telephone entry using DTMF signals generated by 15 telephone keypad entry communicated over a standard telephone line. Alternatively, the registration, subscriber profile and informational data set may even be orally or written communicated to the Host 120 through a conventional telephone line, faxed or mailed to the Host for subsequent entry into database 150 of Host 120 by personnel or other automated procedures.

[0028] The informational data sets are preferably contained in a retrievable 20 storage medium, such as a compiled database 150 residing on a server hard disk drive, floppy or CD-ROM as shown. However, any conventional or subsequently developed storage medium capable of containing a compilation database 150 of all UVDC address codes and corresponding informational data sets, both automated and manual, 25 may be used.

[0029] Mail and parcels bound for the UVDC addressing system, display a 30 UVDC address code on the mail/parcel itself, typically on, but not limited to, the address label. Either the Subscriber 110 or a Non-Subscriber can insert UVDC addressed mail and parcels into the UVDCA system by entering it/them through a Non-Facility which has it/them delivered to the chosen Facility or by initial delivery to a chosen Facility. The address label includes at least the UVDC address code of the 35 Subscriber and optionally a physical address of a desired processing Facility 140 when

the mail/parcel is shipped for initial delivery. However, with the UVDC addressing model, such a physical address does not need to be a final destination point, but may be an interim stopping point in a series of intermediate destination points.

5 [0030] Upon receipt of a UVDC addressed mail/parcel, the Facility 140 queries Host 120, via communications medium 130 (preferably the Internet), to ascertain the disposition of the mail/parcel based on the last known informational data set pertaining to the delivery and forwarding of mail and parcels associated with the respective UVDC address code. The Host 120 provides the Facility 140 with disposition instructions based on the informational data set, so that the Facility 140 10 transacts the disposition of the subject mail/parcel, which results in the Subscriber having mail/parcel delivered where it is wanted.

15 [0031] Identification and tracking of each mail/parcel is performed by the Host 120 as initiated by the Facility 140 and communicated to each via the communications medium 130 during mail and parcel processing. The Host 120 may then make this information available to the Subscriber 110 during commensurate query, via the same or different communications medium 130, to the Host 120.

20 [0032] Based upon the needs of the Subscriber 110 and the disposition of the mail/parcel package, the Subscriber 110 may at any time update their informational data set with the Host 120, via the communication medium 130, which would allow the Facility 140 and subsequent Facilities, to transact mail/parcel disposition according to the newer informational data set corresponding to the Subscriber's 25 UVDC address code. This updating of the database 150 on a storage medium can occur at any time even after the mail/parcel has been addressed and shipped to any of a chain of non-final destinations because the ultimate destination is not necessarily determined by the address on the mail/parcel, but contained in the changeable remote informational data set, which is centrally located at the Host 120 and uniquely identified within the compilation database 150 of UVDC codes. Mail/parcel progresses through the UVDC addressing system 100 until final destination of 30 mail/parcel is determined and delivery instructions transacted. To effect such, both Facilities 140 and Non-Facilities can be used to handle and process UVDC addressed mail/parcels.

[0033] The Subscriber 110, Facility 140 and Host 120 can be physically located anywhere and at any time so long as there is a communication channel open between the Host/Subscriber and Host/Facility. Also, the implementation of the UVDC addressing model is not dependent on the mail/parcel delivery method or communication medium. There is no limit to the number of Participants as defined above. Actual numbers for each may vary depending of the form of implementation of the UVDC addressing model.

[0034] The overall process of the UVDC addressing system 100 can be summarized in the flow chart of Fig. 2. At step 200, the process starts and advances to step 205 where Subscriber 110 registers with Host 120 through communication medium 130 to obtain a unique, virtual dynamically capable address code for the Subscriber. At this time, the Subscriber 110 may provide the Host 120 with the Subscriber's informational data set. However, this can be entered at most any time during the process. At step S210, Facilities 140 may register with the Host 120. However, this step also can be performed at most any time during the process and various Facilities may register throughout any UVDCA system operational cycle.

[0035] At step S215, the Host 120 compiles the various UVDC address codes into a compilation, preferably stored as a database 150 in a storage medium, such as a hard disk on a Host computer. This compilation may be in a table or other file association such that a Subscriber's informational data set is linked to the Subscriber's UVDC address code. This step also is a recurring step throughout the process as new Subscribers to the addressing system 100 are continually updated into the compilation database 150 of informational data sets. At step S220, mail/parcel from a sender is addressed with an address containing a Subscriber's UVDCA code and optionally a physical address of a specific physical address representing a Facility that will be receiving and processing the mail/parcel. This mail parcel may then enter a delivery channel that can take many forms, which form is not critical to the invention as the basic requirement is the address containing a UVDCA code identifying the Subscriber and preferably further indicates a Facility 140 at which the mail/parcel is to be initially delivered.

[0036] At step S225, a Subscriber 110 may modify its instructional data set. It is important to note that such modification can take place at anytime, including after